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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:082

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

- a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;
- a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;
- a driving device that drives said discharge device; and
- a controller that controls said driving device,

wherein said controller controls discharge of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at one point thereof and a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at two points thereof,

wherein said controller is operable when the sheet bundle stapled at one point thereof is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to accelerate the sheet bundle at a first predetermined acceleration and then causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle at a first predetermined speed, and

wherein said controller is operable when the sheet bundle stapled at two points thereof is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to accelerate the sheet bundle at a second predetermined acceleration greater than the first predetermined acceleration, and then causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle at the first predetermined speed.

5. (Previously Presented) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

- a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;
- a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;
- a driving device that drives said discharge device; and
- a controller that controls said driving device,

wherein said controller controls discharge of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at one point thereof and a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at two points thereof,

wherein the controller is operable when the sheet bundle stapled at one point thereof is to be discharged, for causing the discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle at a first predetermined speed, and

wherein the controller is operable when the sheet bundle stapled at two points thereof is to be discharged, for causing the discharge device to convey the sheet bundle at a second

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predetermined speed higher than the first predetermined speed until after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by a predetermined distance, and is operable after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by the predetermined distance, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle at the first predetermined speed.

6-7. (*Canceled*)

8. (*Previously Presented*) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;

a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;

a driving device that drives said discharge device; and

a controller that controls said driving device,

wherein said controller controls discharge of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle and a case where said stapling device does not staple the sheet bundle,

wherein said controller is operable when a stapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to accelerate the sheet bundle at a first predetermined acceleration and then causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle at a first predetermined speed; and

wherein said controller is operable when an unstapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to accelerate the sheet bundle at a second predetermined acceleration greater than the first predetermined acceleration, and then causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle at the first predetermined speed.

9. (*Previously Presented*) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;

a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;

a driving device that drives said discharge device; and

a controller that controls said driving device,

wherein said controller controls discharge of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle and a case where said stapling device does not staple the sheet bundle,

wherein said controller is operable when a stapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle at a first predetermined speed; and

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wherein said controller is operable when an unstapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to convey the sheet bundle at a second predetermined speed higher than the first predetermined speed until after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by a predetermined distance, and is operable after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by the predetermined distance, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle at the first predetermined speed.